

## **P-7: African Americans and Tobacco in Washington**

**Venue:** Statewide

**Goal:** Reducing Health Disparities

**Sponsoring Organizations:** Various

**Abstract:** African Americans (AA) make up about 3% of the Washington population, and are primarily located in the South Puget Sound region. Current smoking among African Americans is approximately 23.4% (22.7% for males and 24.2% for females) for 1998-2000 combined. This is in comparison to the state rate of 20.7% for 2000 (21.7% for males and 19.7% for females). Among African American adults, smokeless tobacco appears to be less than the state as a whole. Youth smoking among African Americans is slightly higher than the general state population for all age groups, although the differences are not statistically significant. Youth smokeless tobacco use is less than the state average for 6th, 8th, and 12th grades, although differences are not statistically significant. Maternal smoking during pregnancy is similar to the state as a whole, at approximately 16%. African Americans may be at greater risk for health impacts of smoking, particularly for lung cancer.

**Recommendations:** DOH should follow recommendations made by the Cross-Cultural Workgroup on Tobacco, as part of a Strategic Plan for Reducing Disparities. Continued engagement of African American community leaders will improve tobacco control capacity and culturally competent program delivery among African American communities in Washington.

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